

The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME 5 - NUMBER 2

NOVEMBER, 1956



THANKSGIVING



THANKSGIVING

by Alta I. MacLaren

(A letter inspired through my contacts with the young men at Southern Union College.)

Dear Mom and Dad:

I have just come from the College library. I was alone there tonight. Guess the rest of my gang had gone to the movies. The library was so pesky quiet, I got to thinking about home and you—and do you know what came to my mind — that Junior High hymn we used to love to sing in Vespers. Remember?

"I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
I would be friend to all — the foe, the friendless;
I would be giving, and forget the gift;
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift."

Little had I realized that a chap could take this hymn right along to College with him. I have been in College just five weeks today, and the thought came to me like a flash tonight—guess maybe I haven't thanked Mom and Dad enough for what my going to College really means. I am grateful for all the sacrifices I know you must be making to keep me here and for much, much more.

First of all—thanks for sending me away from home with a purpose in life.

Thanks for helping me to become even just what I am at seventeen.

Sometimes, I'll admit, I thought you were a bit old fashioned — a little old-fogie-ish—and tonight I have sat and laughed at myself to think that I could ever have held such an idea.

Thanks for helping me to be true—not just to you and to others about me—but true to myself—my finer self.

I used to grin sometimes as we sang "I would be pure", but now I know what that grand guy, Howard Arnold Walter, meant when he wrote those words. "I would be clean"—for there surely are those who care, and I would hate awfully to see some innocent person suffer because of me. Thanks, Dad,

for what you have always meant to me on that score.

You know, I have always thought that when a guy went into the Armed Forces, that would be the time for him to buck up and be strong. I never dreamed there were many other ways to live that word **strong**. Sure, you have to be physically strong to be on the football squad and all such other things a fellow likes to do. Sure thing — no one likes to be called a weakling. Sometimes a chap isn't always physically strong—and he suffers and cringes at that word **weakling**.

But college demands strength of character—and whatever I have on that score — thank you for it!

Thank you for the strength to say "No" to the things which some other fellows think manly. Thank you for the teachings of courage — of grit — of not being afraid of a little work—and of being on the square when I am given a job to do.

Then there is that matter of being friends of all. Dad, remember the call you gave me once because I thought I was too good for the fellow next door just because he hadn't had my training—my background, so-called? I'll never forget your words—"Son, it will never hurt you to be friendly with those you meet. You can't go through life on flowery beds of ease. Every person you meet will somehow touch your life—and if you have backbone enough, you can hold to your principles, regardless. Give of your best always. Maybe you can be just the help that other boy needs. Sneer at no man, son, for sneering only makes an enemy, not of just the other person, but of your very own self."

I would be giving and forget my gift—Thanks, Mom, for all that you have given me all through my life. Good thing I wasn't allowed to crab about my meals. Your patience — Gee! It must have taken a lot! Your sense of beauty—I miss that, Mom. Thanks for my manners — for the things you taught me to create. Thanks for teaching me to give of myself honestly and then not to talk about it. I guess maybe that is what one calls being humble. And, Dad, thanks for teaching me not to expect to have everything handed to me on a silver platter—that when people give to me— then I must appreciate that gift

to its fullest.

I hate it when I see some of the chaps throwing away all that could be so fine—and I am not a saint on that score either. I guess maybe you have known me better than I thought you did. Sometimes I have tried to hide my thinkings, because a chap hates to have the other guys call him a sissy when it comes to religion.

Thanks for your prayers—for believing in me—your praise when I deserved it meant much. But your quiet belief in me meant more—now that I come to think about it.

Yes, thanks again for believing in me—Not just in me, either, nor just in yourselves; but for your believing in the Church, for what you mean to the home church—your dedication to God. Thanks.

I came across two poems here in the library, and though I am not much for sentimentality, yet these two rather got me. I'll share them with you.

One, about the home, is pretty good, I think:

"They say that I am held together by cement and mortar
But I am held together by
Forgiveness that even forgets,
Love that fails not,
Trust and confidence that laugh at mistakes,
And understanding of each other that goes deep and reaches far and lasts forever."

I like those last words—understanding that goes deep, reaches far, and lasts forever.

Thanks for your understanding! That is all I can say, just THANKS! With a mother and a dad like you, a guy surely can "Look up, laugh, and lift."

The other poem was one by Kagawa, a great Japanese.

"A secret plan is hid in my hand
That my hand is big,
Big,
Because of this plan.
That God
Who dwells in my hand,
Knows this secret plan
Of the things He will do for the world
Using my hand!"

I thought long about this poem. Now don't get any wild ideas in your head, Mom, that I'm going to be a minister or something like that. I have a long way to go yet. I have had to grow along

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Minister's Convocation

The sixth in the series of Convocation and Training School for ministers of the Southeast Convention will be held at Southern Union College on Nov. 26-30. Dr. Wesley A. Hotchkiss, director of the Town and Country Dept. of the Board of Home Missions, will be the guest leader.

Dr. Hotchkiss states that his lectures will deal primarily with Christian thought as it applies to the rural church and agriculture, on the following subjects: The Earth in the Scheme of the Christian Faith; The Liturgy of the Church; The Ministry of Reconciliation; and The Christian Faith and the Rural Community.

Besides the four formal lectures, Dr. Hotchkiss will offer four class periods with a chance for discussion on practical techniques and concepts: Christian faith and the Nature of Community; The Bureaucratic Structure of Modern Society; the Small Community; and Evangelizing the Community.

The Rev. Raymond Berry will offer a course for credit in "Old Testament" and the Rev. Miss Carolyn Welch will teach a course on "Sermon Making". The very popular "Association in Reading" course will be conducted by guest ministers.

The Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Superintendent, will be the Convocation preacher this fall.

Churches are urged, as in previous years, to allow pastors the time off to attend and also to pay the room and board fee of \$10 and cost of books for their minister.

The church will richly benefit from the inspiration and instruction the minister receives during these five days of retreat and study.

The Convocation and Training School is planned for all ministers of the Southeast Convention and candidates for licensure and ordination in the Congregational Christian Churches are urged to attend.

Through this continuing program of Convocations and Training Schools, the total life of the fellowship in the Convention can be lifted to a higher level of effectiveness in behalf of the Kingdom of God.

For further information, write the Southeast Convention office.

C. C. FOUNDATION

There are now six students under the Congregational Christian Foundation at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. Funds for scholarships are extremely limited, and the Foundation desperately needs the assistance of churches to help these worthy young men finish their seminary training and preparation for service in the Southeast Convention.

Before long it is hoped that a full-scale fund raising campaign will be launched nationally to provide a permanent endowment fund. The income from such an endowment, supplemented by regular yearly gifts from local church budgets, would provide for a constantly growing number of young men and women preparing for Christian vocations.

LEADERSHIP CITATIONS

Five outstanding laymen of the Georgia-South Carolina Conference were the recipients of Effective Leadership Citations at a recent "Recognition Dinner" held by Central Congregational Church in Atlanta, Ga. (Dr. Thomas Anderson, minister)

The "Men of Central", the laymen's fellowship of the church, sponsored the event as one of their denominational projects. The five laymen were selected on the basis of questionnaires sent to all ministers and churches within the

CIRCUIT RIDER ON TV

The Rev. Miss Lelia Anderson, the Pilgrim Circuit Rider, will be on the Arlene Francis Home Show over N. B. C. - TV on January 16, 1957. Films made of the Home Missions project in Minnesota will be shown.

Since this is a Congregational Christian Home Mission project, it is hoped that as many women's groups as possible will get together for this event.

Georgia - South Carolina Conference. Leslie Beall, chairman of the denominational project committee, presided at the banquet to which the five laymen and their ministers were invited as honored guests.

Four of those receiving awards are pictured with Mr. Beall (center). From left to right they are: J. M. Davenport of Braselton, Ga., received a citation for "outstanding service as a church school teacher" in the Macedonia Church. Lloyd Vickers of Douglas, Ga., was honored for his efforts in church school administration in the Douglas Church. H. E. Williams of Columbus First Church was cited for his leadership with church men. Clyatt W. James of Pearson was presented a citation for his "leadership to church youth" in the Union Hill Church. Artis Hardy of LaGrange is not pictured, but was honored for his "leadership in church financing".



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Forefathers' Day

The Forefathers were pioneers not only in building new homes in the American wilderness but in developing a new way of life both in church and state that has come to be called Americanism. These New England pioneers were venturing not only into a new country but into a new area of thought and action. They had not come to America with the purpose of transplanting to these shores a European culture. They sought a new way of life, a life of freedom and security. Their form of religious, political and social life became so changed that both in America and in England the "New England Way" was early labeled "an American invention".

Other groups coming to America usually sought to set up their church and social agencies after a European pattern, but as the years went on these new groups, confronting pioneer conditions and being at such a distance from European centers, gradually developed independent forms and ideals somewhat similar to those of New England. In time the essentials of the "New England Way" became consciously, or unconsciously, incorporated in our national life and are clearly evident today.

The Manchester (England) *Guardian*, a great world paper, in its issue of Aug. 9, 1956, commenting on Americans, said: "One of the outstanding characteris-

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Our Christian World Mission

For this first report on the Every Church Canvass this fall, we are including only those churches from which we have received the pledge cards with the vote of the congregation. We have received 41 of these cards, but two were to notify us that the church is inactive at the present time and thus did not pledge.

Several letters have come from churches stating that a pledge would be made at the time of the annual meeting, when the 1957 budget is adopted. These letters indicated substantial increases in the OCWM pledge, which would bring the total increase up to \$3,717.

It now looks as if, when all pledge cards are in, we may have the desired 10% increase, or \$4,000 more in 1957 pledges to Our Christian World Mission.

If your church is one of the 76 that has not sent in the pledge card, please remind those responsible to do this as soon as possible. The Southeast Convention Finance Committee will be working on a proposed budget this month, and the Board of Directors will adopt the 1957 budget on Dec. 11.

Pledges received between now and Dec. 1st will be published in the December issue of *Southeast News*.

Happy Fourth Birthday!!

With the October issue of *Southeast News*, the magazine celebrated its 4th birthday and is now starting on the 5th year. In the rush of association meetings, we overlooked this important occasion.

As a further cause for joy and celebration, subscriptions have increased to 724 — the largest circulation we have ever had.

May we take this occasion to thank our faithful church reporters who send us news items and sometimes pictures, the ministers and laymen and women who promote the magazine in their churches, and our subscribers. Without YOU the magazine could not exist.

In the year ahead won't you please continue to help us by sending in news, by telling others about the magazine, by renewing your subscription promptly when it expires, and by your prayers that the magazine will grow to be better in every way — a helpful instrument in the growth and progress of the Southeast Convention.

Church	1955-56 Pledge	1956-57 Pledge
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Central Alabama Association

E. Tallassee	\$790.	\$921.
Mt. Creek Union	30.	45.
Seman Balm	36.	36.
Seman Community	48.	40.
Thorsby United	240.	275.

East Alabama Association

Alexander City Hunt	120.	172.
LaFayette Pleas. Grove	96.	120.
LaGrange Hillside	150.	150.
Lanett	1,044.	1,200.
Lanett Huguley	120.	120.
Langdale	1,200.	1,500.
Phenix City United	600.	600.
Roanoke First	360.	360.
Roanoke Lowell	60.	180.
Roanoke Rock Stand	96.	120.
Wadley	300.	420.

North Alabama Association

Garden City	180.	200.
Hackleburg Fairview	24.	60.
Haleyville Union Grove	48.	60.
Steele, Mt. Lebanon	24.	24.
Steppville Mt. Grove	100.	120.
Town Creek Liberty	24.	20.

South Alabama-NW Florida Association

Andalusia First	96.	120.
Brantley Liberty	48.	48.
Headland Blackwood	240.	320.
Baker Good Hope	180.	240.
Bonifay New Effort	180.	240.
Crestview Dorcas	180.	220.

Georgia-South Carolina Conference

Ambrose Christian	120.	150.
Barnesville Fredonia	150.	150.
Buford Duncan's Creek	60.	60.
Chipleigh Oak Grove	360.	420.
Columbus First	240.	300.
Ft. Valley Society Hill	48.	25.
Gaillard Pleasant Hill	25.	10.
LaGrange United	720.	tithe (about 900.)
Richland First	60.	60.

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference

Evarts First	360.	500.
Corbin Pilgrim	180.	180.
39 churches	\$8,937	\$10,686

Increase: \$1,749

The Superintendent's Page

A MOMENT OF MEDITATION FOR THANKSGIVING, 1956

Make a joyful noise to the
Lord, all the lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
Know that the Lord is God!
It is He that made us, and we are His;
We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving,
and His courts with praise!
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.—Psalm 100

In God's abundant goodness, unending mercy and enduring truth lies the joy of abundant life and our eternal salvation. The heart of the Christian overflows with gratitude and his life is a constant thanksgiving.

So let us make of Thanksgiving, 1956, a **holy day** as well as a **holiday**. Happiness ought to mark the day and our joy should know no bounds. As we gather as families for the "home feast" let us be sure that the Host is not left out, for it is His loving care which brings us together for the day of rejoicing. All the wonderful blessings of our lives together come, not because we have "earned them" or have any right to demand them, but simply as the result of the divine love of the Heavenly Father for His children.

And who can count all his blessings? They flow in a never-ending stream from the loving hand of God into the life of every day. The sun rises, the rains refresh, the crops mature, the seasons come and go, and behind it all is the love and wisdom of God.

We live in a land where we are surrounded on every side by the blessings of wise statutes, sound learning, high ideals, spiritual privileges — not merely of clever human devising, but basic factors in God's Moral Law.

The glorious, golden sun on high;
The flaming, radiant sunset sky—
The glittering, silvered stars at even
Reveal the power of God in Heaven.

The cloud-draped mountain's purple tint
The valley's dusky raiment—
The river's rolling symphony,
Reveal to us God's **majesty**.

The cooling breezes pure and fine
The whisper of the lonely pine—
The birds and flowers within His plan
Reveal the love of God for man.

The kindness of a stranger's smile
The one who dares the second mile
The helping hand when we fall,
Reveal the **Presence** of God to all.

So it is that in nature, in moral law, in human relationships on their highest level, we have a continuing revelation of the Father God—His love, His care, His bountiful provision for our every need.

And for the grateful Christian there is but one worthy response — a complete rededication of time, talent, and possessions to God, His Son, His Church, His Will, His Way — His Kingdom both here and in all the world.

—Erston M. Butterfield



Food and Fellowship at Andalusia First Church for South Alabama-N. W. Florida Association delegates.



Supt. Butterfield with the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mehrstens of Cullman, Ala.



The Rev. Ralph Worley receiving the Association library from Mrs. Raymond Berry as the Rev. Wm. Lindsey reads one of the books. The library is to be loaned to each church of the association for one month, and the Rev. requested it first for the two churches he serves—Good Hope and Dorcas.

Labor to keep alive in your breast that small spark of celestial fire—conscience.

—George Washington

SOUTH ALABAMA - NW FLORIDA ASSOCIATION

The association meeting was held on Oct. 12-13 in Andalusia First Church with the Moderator, the Rev. Raymond Berry, presiding. Of the 13 churches in the association, 12 were represented. Fraternal delegates also came from the Cluster Springs Church served by the Rev. Wm. G. Lindsey, who also serves Bonifay New Effort Church.

New officers were elected as follows: Moderator, the Rev. M. O. Worley of Brantley, Ala.; Asso. Moderator, the Rev. Earl Hand; Scribe and Treasurer, Mrs. Winnie Dye; Representative to the Board of Directors, the Rev. Earl Hand.

Chairmen of standing committees to correspond with the Southeast Convention committees were also elected: Ministry and Churches, the Rev. Raymond Berry; Survey and Church Aid, the Rev. Ralph Worley; Evangelism, Worship & Fellowship, Alfred Adams; Stewardship, Missions, Education, the Rev. W. G. Lindsey; Christian Education and Youth Work, Mrs. Raymond Berry.

During the meeting it was voted to revise the constitution and have copies printed so each pastor and church clerk would have a copy on hand at all times.

Miss Dora Brackin reported on the Evangelism, Worship & Fellowship Committee; and Mrs. Raymond Berry gave the Religious Education and Young People's Work report.

The Rev. Herbert Long, from Central Association, showed slides of the General Council meeting in Omaha, giving a good report on the meeting.

The Rev. and Mrs. Fred Mehrstens of the E. & R. Church at Cullman, Ala., spoke on the coming union of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. They felt the beliefs and practices of the two denominations are so much alike that union will result in better and more effective work in building God's Kingdom.

The Rev. Annie Campbell showed slides of the Work Camp at Southern Union College and told of the interest of the young people of the convention in helping to improve the college.

Supt. Erston M. Butterfield gave a very inspiring sermon on "Ye Shall Be Witness to the Utmost Parts of the Earth."

Separate group meetings were held on Saturday morning: Pilgrim Fellowship

with the Rev. Annie Campbell; Women's Fellowship with Mrs. A. D. Harry; Ministers and laymen with Supt. Butterfield.

A panel discussion on "How the Southeast Convention Committees Function" had as participants Supt. Butterfield, the Rev. Campbell, the Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Berry, the Rev. Ralph Worley, the Rev. Earl Hand, Miss Dora Brackin and Mrs. A. D. Harry (president of Alabama-NW Florida Women's Fellowship).

The Association Library

The first Association Traveling Library began its journey to all of the churches of the South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association as it traveled toward the Dorcas Congregational Church in Crestview, Fla., with the Rev. Ralph Worley, pastor of the church. During the coming year each church in the association will have the use of this library for one month.

The idea for such a library came from Miss Lelia Anderson, the Pilgrim Circuit Rider, when she met with the Southeast Convention Christian Education Committee. She suggested an association traveling library which would help with teacher training, give aid in understanding the Bible, and provide books for the religious growth of children and adults. When this idea was presented to the association last fall at its annual meeting, an offering of \$17 made possible the purchase of the books for this library.

This year the books included in the library are of two types. First, there are books which deal with the characteristics, problems, teaching techniques and patterns of religious growth of each age group in the church school. These are included so that the teacher of each group will have a book which describes the age group he is teaching. From these books he will gain a deeper understanding of his pupils and perhaps of his own teaching.

Secondly, there are several small books on knowing your Bible. These books, each dealing with different parts of our Bible, help the reader to understand the background of the Bible, what is written in it, and its relationship to our lives today.

—Shirley N. Berry, Chm.

SEC Christian Education Comm.

East Alabama Association

This year the East Alabama Association met at two different churches—on Oct. 17 at Phenix City United and Oct. 18 at Roanoke-Rock Stand. Both days were well attended, and reports from the 36 churches were good.

Supt. Erston M. Butterfield was the featured speaker, and many requests were made that his address be published.

Some difficulty was reported in a few of the East Association churches, due to agitation by ministers who had misled the people by false statements. Four ministers were dismissed from the association.

A resolution was drawn up and adopted unanimously, as follows:

A RESOLUTION

We, the members of the special committee elected by the ministers of the East Alabama Association, beg leave to present the following resolutions:

Whereas, we recognize that we live in a time not only of change but also of rumors, of antagonisms and of confusions, and

Whereas, many have had fears aroused and anxieties developed unnecessarily, and

Whereas, some leaders have deliberately tried to confuse the people of our churches,

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That we affirm our confidence in the Christian freedom upon which the Christian and Congregational Churches were founded and we assert that there is not now and will not be any individual or organization with authority over any local church. It is the purpose of all of us to guarantee the rights and the self-government of the local church.

2. Be it resolved, that we assure the churches of our fellowship that the coming union will not in any way affect the life and freedom either of the East Alabama Association or of any local church.

3. Be it resolved, that with respect to the problem of integration, that we assert that there is no power or authority, political or ecclesiastical, that can force any policy of integration upon the association or any local church, and

4. Be it further resolved that Brother John Dollar be elected the minister-at-large for the East Alabama Association to visit its people and its churches, to counsel and advise its ministers and congregations to prevent further misun-

derstandings and to cement our bonds of fellowship; Brother Dollar's expenses to be paid by the East Alabama Association.

Committee:

Rev. Charles W. Bell

Rev. Joe A. French

Rev. John D. Dollar

Rev. A. R. Van Cleave

Also on the program, and contributing to the success of the meeting, were the Rev. Joe A. French, Miss Alta I. MacLaren of SUC, and Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, dean of SUC.

Officers elected were as follows: the Rev. Charles W. Bell of Roanoke, Ala., Moderator; the Rev. A. C. Nelson, vice-moderator; Paul Beaird, secretary; Ross McCormack, treasurer; Odell Yancey, auditor.

Committees were appointed as follows: Ministry and Churches, Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, chairman, with the Rev. Olin Sheppard and James Hall; Missions and Stewardship, the Rev. Joe A. French, chairman, with the Rev. Roy Chatham and Noel Allen; Religious Education and Youth Work, the Rev. Carl Landes, chairman, with the Rev. Lynwood Hubbard and Miss Alta MacLaren; Evangelism, Worship and Fellowship, the Rev. John Crutcher, chairman, with the Rev. Wm. McCullars and Mrs. Gray.

DEDICATED LAYMEN

One of the reasons for the continued progress of the East Alabama Association is the dedicated service and outstanding leadership of its lay members. Paul H. Beaird of Lanett is one example. He has been secretary of the association for 24 years, and was re-elected to serve another term. Mr. Beaird says there was one year, between terms, when he did not serve, but all the rest of his years of service have been consecutive.

He takes great pride in keeping the records of the 36 churches of the association in good order at all times, and in taking minutes and seeing that the annual yearbook of the association is printed and distributed.

For the past two years Mr. Beaird has ably represented the East Association on the SEC Board of Directors.

Mr. Beaird said that his record has been surpassed by one year — John W. Payne (now deceased) served the East Association as treasurer for 25 years. Mr. Payne was from Wedowee, Ala.

The SEC Moderator, Odell Yancey, is



Luncheon at United Church for East Association delegates.



East Association officers, Left to right: Moderator Charles Bell; the Rev. John D. Dollar, Pastor-at-large; Ross McCormack, treasurer; Paul Beaird, secretary; the Rev. A. C. Nelson, vice moderator; Odell Yancey, auditor.



Mrs. Velma French, past treasurer, and Paul H. Beaird, secretary, conferring over church records during East Association meeting in Phenix City.

from Langdale and active in his local church. Also from Langdale, James Dollar is secretary-treasurer of the SEC Laymen's Fellowship, former president of the Alabama laymen, and active in

(Continued on Page 12)

Church News.....

Colonial Publications, Inc., of Boston has included Circular Church in its "Historic Churches Date Book." This book contains pictures and brief histories of 50 of the most historic churches of America. The church is also included in "South Carolina Date Book".

Charles Watson of Honolulu is the new president of "The Citadel Congregational Club" composed of 30 Congregational students in The Citadel with meetings every Monday night. The Rev. Archie B. Bedford is the Counsellor. Mr. Bedford was the guest preacher at The Citadel Chapel on Oct. 14.

Circular Church has grown from a resident membership of 58 in October 1951 to 242 in October 1956. Among the new members are Mr. and Mrs. James H. McIntyre of the Math department of The Citadel (Mrs. McIntyre is the granddaughter of the Rev. Fred P. Enslinger) and Dr. Arthur Chalmers and family. Dr. Chalmers is a descendent of the Rev. Wm. Tennant who was pastor of the church from 1772 to 1777 and contributed so much to the Colonies during their struggle for freedom from England.

Pictures of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Bender recently appeared in the *News and Courier* among the "Newcomers prominent in Charleston." The Benders were formerly members of Central Church in Atlanta. They have helped to make the Circular Choir one of the best in the city. Mr. Bender is also president of the Men's Club.

Those from the Tifton Vanceville Church who attended the state conference meeting at Ambrose Oct. 3-4 were the Rev. and Mrs. Henry Abbott, Mrs. Walter Hand, Jeff Hand, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Veazey, and Mrs. W. A. Hand attended one day.

The Rev. W. C. Carpenter preached at Vanceville on Oct. 14, both morning and evening. We were happy to have the Rev. and Mrs. Otto Culpepper of Tuskegee, Ala., spend the last weekend of October in our community. Mr. Culpepper preached on Oct. 28 both morning and evening. A number of people from the Enigma Church were present to hear him.

After a lapse for some time, we are now having midweek prayer meeting each Wednesday night at the church.

—Mrs. Rosie Hand, reporter

On Nov. 2 the Women's Guild of Nashville Brookmeade Church cooperated with the United Church Women of Nashville in sponsoring a lecture by Dr. Charles W. Gilkey, Dean Emeritus of University of Chicago Chapel, on "Human Rights". The lecture was given at Neely Auditorium, Vanderbilt University, in observance of World Community Day.

(from monthly church letter)

The Richland Church has had the best year since I have been with the church as pastor. The revival was conducted on a different pattern from that we have usually followed. First, we conducted a prayer meeting for four evenings previous to the beginning of our preaching mission. We began our revival on the first Sunday in June, continuing through Friday evening. The preaching was done by the pastor. We received two members on confession and three by transfer from other denominations. Two children were Christened.

Since that time, and with the addition of the new members, we have organized the choir and have choir practice each Wednesday evening following the mid-week prayer meeting. Mrs. T. L. Woods, Mrs. Eva Martin and Mrs. Perry Drew have been elected ministers of music.

The church has voted to purchase an electric organ and have it installed by Christmas. On December 16 at five o'clock in the afternoon we will have our Christmas Cantata.

—S. M. Penn, pastor

The members of Roanoke Lowell Church are glad to have our new pastor, the Rev. Charles W. Bell, and his family with us. Recently a fellowship was given in their honor and we welcomed them with a "pounding".

Our regular Bible Study is held on Wednesday nights at the church, but on Oct. 31 we met at a nursing home in the home of Mrs. Willie Traylor. The elderly people seemed to enjoy meeting with us in the prayer service, and everyone received a blessing from going.

New heaters have been installed in the parsonage and the fellowship hall.

On Oct. 16 a business meeting was held for the purpose of presenting the new church budget.

We are having good attendance in our Women's Fellowship meetings. The year books have been filled out and we have adopted as our project the improvement of the church kitchen.

An Installation Service for the Rev. Charles W. Bell was held on the afternoon of Oct. 28.

—Mrs. John Tom Breed and
Mrs. Joe Bob Hunt

The Rev. F. J. Mehrtens, pastor of St. John's Reformed and Evangelical Church of Cullman, Ala., has accepted a call to become pastor of a church in Cannelton, Indiana.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Mehrtens have been cooperative in the work of the Southeast Convention and the North Alabama Association.



CHOIR OF RICHLAND FIRST CHURCH



THE REDECORATED WORSHIP CENTER AND NEW ORGAN IN
LaGRANGE UNITED CHURCH

The United Church of LaGrange observed Homecoming Day Oct. 28 with a large congregation present to hear the anniversary sermon delivered by the Rev. Olin Sheppard of Roanoke, Ala., former pastor of United Church.

The occasion was in observance of the merger in 1931 of the Congregational and Christian Churches. During this service, Alvin Davis, director of industrial relations of Callaway Mills Company, led the dedication service, dedicating a beautiful altar set, gift of Circle I of the WMS in memory of the late Stanton Bartlett; and the new Hammond electric organ.

As we are presently without a pastor, A. L. Bryant, chairman of the Board of Deacons, presided and introduced the speakers and welcomed the large number of friends and former members.

—Mrs. John Laubenthal, reporter

The Mountain Grove Church, near Steppville, Ala., at a business meeting on Sept. 30 elected the following officers for the coming year: Clerk, Mrs. Ruby Clark; Treasurer, John T. Clark; Deacons — E. R. Delorme, Edd Clark, Claude Lee, H. L. Terry; Deaconesses — Mrs. Willie Allred, Mrs. Bernice Vansant, Mrs. John Clark, Mrs. Johnnie Terry; Trustees — Earl Clark, Edd Clark, Bob Quick; Choir Leader, Earl Clark; Assistant, Lee Allred; Pianist, Mrs. Helen Clark; Assistant, Phyllis Delorme.

S. S. Supt., Lee Allred; Asst. Supt., H. L. Terry Sr.; Secretary, Gail Wallace; Asst. Sec., Phyllis Delorme; Choir Di-

rector, Fred Thompson; Asst. Choir Director, M. L. Terry; Pianist, Phyllis Delorme; Cradle Roll Supt., Mrs. Mattie Fine; Teachers — Mrs. Johnnie Terry, Mrs. Eula Thompson, Mrs. John Clark, Mrs. Bernice Vansant, Mrs. Ruby Clark, Mrs. Lilly Robertson, Mrs. Verla Ballard, Mrs. Helen Clark.

The Garden City Church held its annual business meeting on Oct. 13, with reports from officers, committees and organizations on accomplishments for this year and plans for another year.

Officers elected to lead the church next year are: Clerk, Mrs. Melba Price; Treasurer, Mrs. S. A. Price; Deacons — Burt Farmer, Philip Gletty, Gordon Latham; Deaconesses, Mrs. L. E. Price, Mrs. Annie Fanning, Mrs. Johnnie Turner; Trustees, B. H. Curl, Ray Price, Roy Rucks; Pianist, Mrs. S. A. Price; Assistant, Mrs. Philip Gletty.

S. S. Officers: Superintendent, Ray Price; Secretary - treasurer, Glenda Washburn; Christian Education Committee, Mrs. Melba Price, Diane Kretzschmar, Jean Vincent.

The Every Member Canvass was held on November 11.

Members of the Haleyville Union Grove Church have been very busy putting their Christian convictions into action.

A member of the community lost her house by fire, and the congregation and community got together a stove, furniture, food, and quilts which were quilted at the church.

A member of the church has been

Forefathers . . .

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tics of Americans is their willingness to experiment with new ideas and new discoveries and their eagerness to see if they work and what results they produce. They are prepared to take any scientific discovery from the laboratory and translate it into the terms of the engineering shop or the factory. In the religious field one of the principal differences between the churches in America and those in Europe is that while we have been discussing at ever greater length and with increasing subtlety whether the affirmations of the Christian Gospel are a set of "meaningless noises", they give their time and energy to finding out what happens if you take these affirmations — or some rival set — at their face value as a way of life."

The ideals of the Fathers concerning freedom of thought, self-discipline, community responsibility and their acceptance of the principle that "private interests must not be put in opposition to the public good" and their "great ideals and noble visions" are a heritage which the pioneers, with all their shortcomings and experimental failures, have left us as a Way of Life highly worthy of being held in respect and reverent memory.

The memories and meanings of the great days celebrated in this season should aid our understanding of our many-sided heritage. Let us not assume an attitude of complacency, but rather of re-dedication to the ideals that gave to the lives and labor of the Fathers everlasting values.

—Frederick L. Fagley

very seriously ill in a Birmingham hospital. The church members raised \$234.50 to help the family with medical expenses.

Andalusia Antioch Church had a cotton patch as a Lord's Acre project this year. Despite the sore backs and sunburn, everyone enjoyed the fellowship of working it. The cotton was dedicated in a special church worship service.

The church softball team has completed its first season in the Church Softball League. The community supported the team well. The team had a very successful season and won the trophy for this year.

—Winnie Dye, reporter

Pilgrim Fellowship

WORK DAY FOR CHRIST

Nashville Brookmeade	\$25.45
Tallassee Mt. Olive	15.75
Daisy First	35.00
LaGrange United	15.10
Andalusia First	16.75
Roanoke Rock Stand	42.00
Headland Blackwood	19.60
To date:	\$185.25

In Nashville, the PF group washed cars on the church property to earn their WDFC money.

In Tallassee, some young people cut grass and cleaned yards— others baked cakes, mopped and waxed floors and furniture as individual projects.

Ann Clark, reporting for Rock Stand PF, said, "We gained the money by picking cotton and had lots of fun doing it".

Sandra Wallace wrote, "The Andalusia First PF raised the money raking yards, mowing lawns and washing cars."

Additional reports will appear in the December issue of *Southeast News*.

Garden City PF invited Mt. Grove PF to a Scavenger Hunt and wiener roast on Oct. 16. About 15 young people in two groups "did the town" looking for a hair from a horse's tail, a needle with purple thread, the mayor's signature, turkey feathers and various other objects. When they had secured all the necessary items, they enjoyed the wiener roast around the outdoor fireplace behind the Garden City Church.

Mt. Grove PF invited Garden City PF to a skating party at Wamp's rink on Oct. 29. More than 30 young people enjoyed the skating while the pastor and several adults sat on the side lines and watched the fun.

Both Garden City and Mt. Grove PFs decided to "Trick or Treat" for funds for S. O. S. Since Mt. Grove is in the country, they decided to combine their "Trick or Treat" with a hayride and invited Garden City PFers to join them. The two groups gathered at the Mt. Grove Church, climbed into two wagons pulled by tractors and took different roads to Garden City, stopping at houses along the way. The groups covered part of Garden City and ended the ride at the church, with drinks furnished by Mt. Grove PF. Some 30 young people enjoyed the hay rides and collected \$14 for the S. O. S. fund.

NORTH ALABAMA PF RALLY

The North Alabama PF Rally met at Garden City on Oct. 21, beginning at 9:00 a. m. with welcome and introductions by Glenda Washburn, vice president, who presided in the absence of the president, Howard Shelton.

Birmingham Pilgrim PF conducted the worship service preceding the Sunday School. All the young people met together for a discussion on "Teen-age Problems". The morning worship was conducted by the young people: Danny Gletty gave the Call to Worship, Robert Saunders the Invocation, Bill Green read the Scripture Lesson, Jean Vincent prayed the morning prayer, and Millard Fuller delivered the morning message.

With the assistance of the Women's Fellowship, Garden City PFers served lunch to about 50 delegates and visitors at the Junior High School.

The afternoon session opened with a period of fun singing followed by the description of the PF Work Camp by Miss Annie Campbell, using color slides. Miss Campbell also presented the Mission themes with materials for the year ahead.

The following officers were elected: President, Jean Vincent; vice-president, Robert Saunders; Secretary-treasurer, Glenda Washburn; Commission Chairmen—Faith, Anne Turner; Fellowship, Diane Kretzschmar; Action, Danny Gletty.

The closing worship and Installation of Officers was conducted by Miss Campbell.

—Collie Seymour, pastor
Garden City-Mt. Grove Parish

The Nashville Brookmeade PF sponsored a folk dance party for the young people of the local E. & R. Church in a get-acquainted venture. Although there are only five regular members of the group, it is an active and wide-awake PF.

Roanoke Lowell PF collected clothing, money and food for the Share Our Surplus project on Nov. 29.

The young people meet each Sunday night at six o'clock. Adult advisors are the Rev. Charles Bell, Mrs. Orin Hill, Mrs. Milton Webb and Mrs. Elizabeth Chase.

—Cynthia Breed, reporter



Wadley District PF officers and chairmen (left to right) Terry Taylor, Johnny Van Cleave, Martha Kirby, Jane Brassel, Frank Bell.



North Alabama District PF officers and chairmen (front row) Jean Vincent, Robert Saunders, Glenda Washburn; (back row) Ann Turner, Danny Gletty, Diane Kretzschmar.



The Rev. Collie Seymour (left center), PF Advisor and Pastor-at-large for North Alabama and host pastor for the district rally, with W. R. Green Jr. (right center), SEC secretary for Pilgrim Fellowship and speaker at the district rally.

Project Of The Month

Thanksgiving is a fitting time to share our material abundance with the rest of the world. We have come a long way from the Pilgrim fathers who were grateful to God for the good harvest that brought to an end a year of struggle for life itself. One might say that we had come about nine billion dollars away — for this, incomprehensible though it might be, was the value of the surplus commodities held by our government, as of May 1, 1956. Much of the rest of the world unfortunately is still struggling for life itself and with far less promise of future abundance than had the Pilgrim Fathers.

Contributions to Share Our Surplus provide the means whereby this abundance of ours may be transferred to the areas of greatest need. The surplus food costs nothing itself — the funds raised through SOS are for administrative, distributive and transportation expenses. That is why \$1 to SOS will release 100 lbs. of food. And 100 lbs. of food to the victims of a flood in India or a war in Korea can mean the difference between life and death.

To help us understand what our surplus represents, Church World Service tells us that there is enough wheat in storage to bake four loaves of bread for every family in the United States every day for a year, enough cotton to make 117 shirts or 91 dresses for each family in the United States, and enough dried milk to provide nearly 1,000 glasses of milk for each person in America. They also tell us the \$1 will give cheese to more than 200 persons in Europe and Asia daily for a week; \$10 will give rations of rice to more than 700 hungry and destitute persons for one week; and \$100 will provide life-giving bread daily to each of 500 needy people for more than two months.

Special materials are available from the Missions Council, 287 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. To help your church visualize this project, colorful posters, leaflets, offering envelopes are free. Contributions should be sent to the Convention Office, 673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E., Atlanta, Ga., marked "S. O. S."

ORDER YOUTH WEEK PACKET NOW

Dept. of Publishing & Distributing,
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SOUTHERN UNION COLLEGE NEWS

The major emphasis of the 1956 Homecoming festivities on Oct. 20 was the breaking of ground for the new physical education building on the campus.

This new building, designed by architect Evan M. Terry of Birmingham, will be located on the present baseball field with its main girders resting back into the slope below Elder Hall. The building will cover 13,020 square feet and follows modern design. It will include a full size (50' X 90') college basketball floor; large space for storage; seating capacity for 900; two classrooms; public rest rooms; office space; two locker rooms. The total cost will be \$85,000.

Speaker for the ground-breaking service was I. I. "Zeke" Fox, mayor of Alexander City and district governor of Kiwanis International. Music was provided by the Heard County High School band from Franklin, Ga.

The ceremony opened with the coronation of Queen Kay Jenkins and King Jimmy Dunson, both of Roanoke.

Southern Union College was one of the eight junior colleges in Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia to organize the Dixie Junior College Athletic Conference.

Representatives from the eight schools met in West Georgia College in Carrollton and set up a series of rules and regulations for the new organization. Institutions included Snead College of Boaz, Ala., Marion Institute of Marion, Ala., Walker College of Jasper, Ala., Southern Union College of Wadley, Ala., Martin College of Pulaski, Tenn., Hiwassee College of Madisonville, Tenn., Gordon Military College of Barnesville, Ga., and West Georgia College.

Elected as officers were President Douglas Wasson of SUC as chairman, President Virgil McCain of Snead as vice-chairman, and Coach Kermit Smith of Martin as secretary-treasurer.

Emphasis will be placed on basketball and baseball for the first few years with strong encouragement given to tennis and golf. Four of the schools now play football but intercollegiate football will not be regulated by the conference.

Membership of the two Georgia schools is contingent upon the provisions of the Georgia Junior College Association.

Dramatic Production

Miss Linda Bryant and Dale Whitman

had the leading cast positions in SUC's first major dramatic production for the year — "The Late Christopher Bean", given in Elder Auditorium Nov. 9-10 and directed by Professor Carolyn P. Welch.

Supporting members of the cast included Misses Janelle Nunn, Deneda Cecil; Messrs. Dick Yoder, Gene Watson, Julius Heath, and Tom Hilyer.

Acting president Douglas Wasson of SUC has been elected first vice-president of the Wadley Kiwanis Club.

F. Dale Whitman of Dadeville, Ala., has been named editor of the 1957 Bison, the yearbook of SUC. Assistant editors are Thomas E. Hilyer, Shelby Caffee and Kay Jenkins. Art editors are Richard D. Yoder, Bill Bassett and Mary Compton. Named as business managers were Darrell Kirby, Jimmy Dunson and Wally Dunnavent. Faculty advisor is Professor Robert C. Yoh of the English department.



Members of Central Church Pilgrim Fellowship (right) assembling, folding and stapling three commission booklets for the PF packets in the dining room of the southeast Convention parsonage. Supf. and Mrs. Butterfield assisted Miss Campbell and the young people. Mrs. Butterfield provided hot chocolate and cookies for the willing workers. Around the table clockwise, beginning at five o'clock are: David Starrett, Peter Sanford, Pamela Rapp, Sandra Ellerbee, Miss Campbell, Wilfred Holton, Don Sanford, Harry Long (assistant to Dr. Anderson). Also present but not in the picture was Diane Erwin.



The Rev. Chas. W. Bell (left) congratulating the Rev. John D. Dollar after his installation service, with the Rev. W. R. Roberts and Supt. Erston M. Butterfield.



Installation service for Forest Home Church officers, deacons and teachers: Left to Right: Mrs. Herbert Pike, WMS president; Miss Pauline Muldrew, secretary; teachers — Mrs. Bill Houze, Mrs. Lee Smith, Mrs. Clem Gay; Janet Sikes, pianist; Hugh Muldrew, chorister; Thos. Sikes, Superintendent; Deacons — Herbert Pike, Wess McCullars, Howard Muldrew, Louis Houze; and, conducting the installation, the Rev. John D. Dollar, pastor.



The Rev. John Dollar congratulating the Rev. Charles Bell, with (back row) Supt. Butterfield, the Rev. Clarence Bennett and the Rev. Olin Sheppard.

INSTALLATION SERVICES

CHARLES W. BELL

A Service of Installation was held for the Rev. Charles W. Bell on the afternoon of Oct. 28 in the Lowell Congregational Christian Church of Roanoke, Ala., with Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, chairman of the East Alabama Association Committee on the Ministry, presiding.

The Rev. C. W. Bennett gave the scripture reading, Supt. Erston M. Butterfield preached the sermon, and the Rev. John D. Dollar gave the prayer of installation.

JOHN D. DOLLAR

On the same day, at an evening service, the Rev. John D. Dollar was installed in Forest Home Congregational Christian Church, near Roanoke, Ala.

The Rev. Wallace Roberts gave the scripture reading, Supt. Butterfield preached the sermon, and the prayer of installation, the Rev. Charles W. Bell led the Service of Installation, and the Rev. Olin Sheppard gave the closing prayer and benediction.

No job is particularly hard if you divide it into several small jobs.

REV. CLYDE C. FLANNERY

The Rev. Clyde C. Flannery was installed as pastor of the Brookmeade Congregational Church of Nashville, Tenn., in a very impressive service on the afternoon of Nov. 4, 1956.

Dr. Stanley U. North, general secretary of the Board of Home Missions in New York City, preached the installation sermon. Supt. Erston M. Butterfield conducted the installation service.

Others participating in the service were the Rev. Kenneth Worthman, First Evangelical and Reformed Church of Nashville; Walter Graham, director of National Laymen's Fellowship; Dr. Wm. Kendrick Grobel, Professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt Divinity School and Assistant Moderator of Kentucky-Tennessee Conference; the Rev. C. T. Baker, executive secretary Tennessee Council of Churches; the Rev. John T. Keister, vice-president of Nashville Association of Churches; the Rev. Kelly M. Smith, vice-president Nashville Ministers' Association; and Rufus G. Obrecht, Moderator Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

Thanksgiving . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

with you both in every step of my way.

And I still must grow: in mind, in heart, in soul!

Thanks for being even more than a Mom and Dad to me. Thanks for having been pals—friends. And, boy! If a guy ever needed a friend right now—I am that guy!

So long! I'll be seeing you at Thanksgiving recess. Until then, love.

Jim

(Miss MacLaren gave this letter at the East Alabama Association meeting.)

East Alabama . . .

(Continued from Page 7)

association and SEC projects.

Herman Cook of Lanett gave many years of service to the laymen, serving as the first SEC president and organizing many of the local church fellowships. Mr. Cook now serves on the national committee of the Laymen's Fellowship.

We do not bring a cause to triumph merely by holding a meeting or publishing a paper.